

The 'Terror of Chicago' Shot in His Own
Bedroom by a Colored Thug

tion, and in a few moments several officers from that district were at the Des plaines Street station. A patrol wagon came a few moments later, and the pris-

men have been collecting and moving to watch the scene of the murder, and toward the city hall. Whenever the news became known a small group of men, as

The Old House of Han-Yu is open and doing a fine business. Many new guests are coming in and the regular winter guests are returning.

curtains, tables, etc., are especially needed. In addition to these essentials, anything in the way of home decoration such as table sets, pictures, draperies,

"No doubt the times are quite bright. We, to be frank with you, haven't read them yet. But the costumes are simply gorgeous."—Washington Star.

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Special attention given to Probate business

CHAPTER I.



She opened the door.

Late one Saturday afternoon in a certain December I sat by a good sea coal fire in my office, trying to muster courage enough for an encounter with the cold winds and driving storm outside. I had assumed to myself my cowardice to myself, and I had done every unnecessary thing I could think of to all time, at least, as far as the necessity of coming over the contents of my purse. This, however, was but a brief resource. "A short horse," as the proverb has it, "is soon curried." The only coin worth anything on was a bright, new half eagle given me that morning by some chance customer as my recompense for "doing a deed."

Limited as my practice and my fees had always been, but I had never met a novelty to me, and yet from the prolonged attention with which in my procrastinating frame of mind I regarded it, a better in might have supposed I was studying some rare antiquity instead of a very ordinary specimen of Uncle Sam's daily spending money. I examined it chronologically, with reference to the date, and geographically in respect to the mark of the mint whence it issued.

I computed the eagle on the one side with my remembrance of such ornate objects, specimens as I had seen in traveling museums, and of the effigy—then solemnly to be levelled to the solid gold—which in my boyish days kept ward over Tommy Townsend's coffee house. I scrutinized the head of Liberty with the eye of a physiognomist, and in attempting with a sharp pointed penknife to give the hybrid profile a more feminine mouth, I accomplished sundry scratches, which I regret very well, have passed for a mistake, besides cutting my fingers and tearing at once the knife blade and the fair commandment.

A knock at the door checked the half uttered meditation, and was only repeated when I cried, "Come in!" Had spiritual rappings been invented then I might have thought that Satan, his patience exhausted by this new development of wickedness, was about to foreclose the mortgage he is popularly supposed to hold on every member of our profession. As it was, I only rose and opened the door. The rudely dressed figure streamed out into the dark entry and fell upon a slight figure that seemed almost the embodiment of its coldness and gloom. The figure, however, was too familiar to me to inspire any supernatural fears, being that of a young woman who earned a scanty subsistence by copying for lawyers. Why need I describe her?

An employment requiring easy penmanship and some acquaintance with commas and periods, if not with the more essential parts of composition, thus a most as a matter of course to those who at some period have had greater advantages than those who, in that common but more touching phrase, "have known better days." The result is easily guessed. It might be told in many a tale of patient suffering and agony of bright eyes dimmed with late watering of red cheeks, and then to the line of the paper before them, of young noses withered and a sunken face, they are as lifeless and void of meaning to the weary heart as the dry legal phrases of the copy to the third and that that series of checks!

And what had been lingering idly by my fire, dressing to face the storm, this scanty clad girl had walked away from her distant garret. She did not tell me that she was weary and chilled to the very heart, but I read it in her pinched face, in the frozen flesh which covered her dress of faded mourning and in the eagerness with which she drew toward the fire as a starving man would approach food. She protected as she was from the storm, she had managed to cover the papers she brought from its clenching with a care which told more strongly than any words the importance to her of the trifling sum she was to receive for the copying.

This was the first time I had ever employed her—in fact, I did not often find it necessary to obtain such extraneous aid in getting through my business, and the present occasion was due less to the pressure of my own occupations than to the whims of one of my best clients, who had declared that he would see me in a still worse place than Wall street before he would spend time in deciphering my legal caligraphy, or the school-boy jottings and hangers of my only and very juvenile clerk.

I took the package and ran my eye over its contents. They were written in a neat, plain hand, just stiff enough to show that the consciousness of copying for a lawyer had marred the writer's ease. As copies they were scrupulously correct and finished, even to the numbering of the folios in the margin.

was not Fortunate, for I found nothing more there than I had seen in it, an hour before—small change of the very smallest variety. Could I put her off till Monday? Without that half eagle my Saturday night's marketing would be a very small affair.

"But what will I do without it?" said my conscience. "If you feel the inconvenience of an empty pocket so much, what must it be to those who earn food and shelter from day to day? Daily bread is something more than a mere form of respect to them."

Perhaps a little would serve her immediate wants. Selfishness received this suggestion with very approving, and I turned from my papers to the copyist to make the suggestion.

She stood on the other side of the fireplace as motionless as if she had been a carved pillar placed there to support the mantle, against which her shadower rested. One foot—a neat one, even in its worn, worn shoe—peeped from beneath her dress, as I drew irresistibly toward the grate, warming myself, and her whole attitude seemed to express the same feeling. She did not blink and craved over the fire as a beggar would have done. She did not sit before I and court is cheerful, but as if I had looked on her own bare torso.

Scarcely swerving from the most erect position as she leaned against the marble, her clasped hands hanging before her, she seemed to be bracing herself against an attraction that would draw her completely into the flame. I could not resist the temptation to look at her, and I saw that if I did, I should find her form would be drawn closer and closer, till finally it mingled with the flickering blaze and with it passed into viewless air.

But when I lifted my eyes to her face, I saw that she was at least unconscious of the fanciful impulse. Her fixed eyes and a faint smile on her lips told that some pleasant thought had beguiled her even there into a day dream. Following the direction of her gaze, I saw that it rested on the same solitary coin which had been the subject of my own meditations, and which lay just where I had dropped it—on the table—when started by her knock.

Modern critics are very fond of talking about the suggestive in art and literature. To my own mind, because it is unadorned and wordless, I suppose they would say there is no word in the language so suggestive as money—no word of art that brings up so many and so varied thoughts as those very remarkable profiles and effigies which adorn our current coin. Dross in itself, if the patronizers will have it so, yet as a means, a tool, a path, is it not wonderful in its versatility of its power? What magician ever worked such wonders in the material world? What spirit works so universally, to unendingly, so unceasingly, in the moral? Even that single coin on my table—that inhumanistic cry in the great ocean of wealth—how much it tells with the circumference of such a small piece of metal!

To my own mind—wordless and unadorned, as I have before observed—it had been suggestive of a great many things. Compressed within its disk, I had seen my Sunday dinner—apple, come to a turn, rice with dripping gravy and smoking hot from the roasting rack. From its metallic rim I had already slipped in imagination the rare old Amontillado. A fragment of the gold had curled my lips in fragrant breaths of smoke. And if I, to whom even half eagles were not infrequent visitors and who, if I had known poverty at all, had known him only as a neighbor to be shunned, and not as an inmate to be fought, was, even in my worst estate, had been spared the pain of seeing him enter at my own door and sit down with my dear ones at their scant meal, if I could see so much in a half eagle, what a world wide prospect of happiness might it not open to that poor girl's eyes? I cared not dwell on the things she might see there, and I should loathe myself, and the well-to-do Christian men a punkie, who so rarely grant such visions to the starved eyesight, but I immediately gave up all thoughts of sending the girl away with her money.

Yes, her money! For hers it was by all that can make good life in law or equity; earned by the fragment of her young life she had given for it; earned with the very tears from her wasted frame and the blood from her pale cheeks.

What business had I to be speculating and sentimentalizing thus about the affairs of a young lady with whom I had only a little business transaction. I might have known that such an unprofessional train of thought would lead to some blunder. The earlier part and the iron one never can swim safely together in fact or fancy. Consequently I arose in upon the poor girl's reverie with the most awkward question in the world: "Have you any change, miss?"

my remark. I could have gone on my knees to ask her pardon if I had only known in what words to phrase the enquiry. The scene was so embarrassing that I cut it short by pressing the coin into her hand and telling her that we would make it a right if she would come for more work on Monday. Very likely she would have said something in reply, but not feeling inclined to test my conversational powers further, after such an unlucky beginning, I hastily bade her good night and opened the door.

When her back was fairly turned, I took my candle and held it as the statistician did, and reached the bottom of the last long flight, and then going back to my chamber I wondered what Mrs. Quilman would say to a cold Sunday dinner.

CHAPTER II.



Mr. Quilman's identification.

"If that rascally boy of mine has not made a good fire," said I to myself as I walked down town the Monday morning following, "I shall certainly give him the thrashing in which I have stood inclined to him so long."

From this novel species of accord and satisfaction, however, the much-thereof deserving youth was saved by an unexpected incident. Seated by the cheerless and fog-clogged grate as I entered, I noticed my visitor of the preceding Saturday night. Her pale, sad face was even paler and sadder than before, and I thought there were tears in her eyes and traces of many that had preceded them. But perhaps this was owing to the smoke now pouring from the mass of paper and wet wood with which Tom, as usual, greeted my arrival.

"I am sorry to tell you, sir," she said, after answering my salutation, "that the coin you gave me was a bad one."

A bad one—my beautiful half eagle a counterfeit! In what of earth can confidence then be placed? Look it in my hand; it certainly had every appearance of being genuine.

"Positive, you must be mistaken, my dear. I could not be deceived so easily." And feeling that I uncouthly appeared to her as a gentleman, whom the daily inspection of unlimited gold coin had made a perfect Sir Oracle upon the subject, I drew myself up before the fire—

As who should say, "Let no dog bark."

Her lip quivered as she replied: "Indeed, sir, I am very, very sorry, but it must be so, for you know I had no other but that."

"And pray how did you learn it to be a counterfeit?"

"When I left here, sir, I went directly up to a place where some of our things were; I went to pay the little sum we had borrowed on them when my mother was taken sick, and the man took the half eagle and said it was a counterfeit and gave it back to me."

"Nonsense, child, the man was mistaken."

She did not argue the point, but made a brief apology for the trouble she had given me, and nestled.

"I trust," said I, still somewhat incredulous and confounding, as a man whose resources have unjustly been suspected, "that the fellow's stupidity has caused you no inconvenience?"

A bright hectic flush crossed her pale cheeks as an instinctive denial rose to her lips. Further than that the falsehood could not come; her hand sunk between her hands, and the poor girl, weak and cold and starving, as I afterward knew, sobbed violently.

Lit by the fire I learned her sad story. I need not be repeated here; it lacks, alas, the charm of novelty. Years of still deepening poverty, and yesterday, when Mrs. Quilman and I were grumbling at our leg of cold mutton, this poor child and her sick mother passed the long cold day without food or fire, even the warm clothes and bedding, which this money was to have redeemed from the pawnbroker's den, to their shivering limbs.

I put on my hat and stepped over to Bullock's to get change for the half eagle. The clerk threw it carelessly on a balance, and I had already noticed the change, when he saw that the delicate arm after vibrating a little did not decline with the weight. He took it up and handed it to the head of the firm, and after a short consultation between them I was asked into the inner office. A chemical test soon proved the worthless character of the coin. Bullock asked me if I knew where it had received its "Certainty."

The girl should be certain and to time lost in extracting from her a confession as to the persons whose too late uncertainty was. We accordingly repaired together to my office, where we found her patiently waiting. In answer to my questions she repeated her story with much apparent frankness, until, as the name of the person to whom she had offered the coin. After some hesitation she named a very respectable pawnbroker in Union street, to whom, as well as to the police office, a messenger was immediately dispatched.

Mr. Foreceps soon came, and we received him in another apartment. His answers to the inquiries we made completely confirmed our suspicions. Such a coin as we showed him (the counterfeit) had been offered to him on the previous Saturday night by a young woman, and on being confronted with our prisoner—for such we now considered her—he at once recognized her as the same. Her own frightened, pallid face would have satisfied us of the fact; but rising, as if to speak, she caught sight of a police officer, just entering the door, and she said: "Wait!"

I went home that night I pleased with my day's work. That the girl was guilty seemed but too clear. But I could not believe that she was anything more than an instrument, and my experience in criminal law, slight as it was, taught me how slender the chances were of arresting the guilty parties. Had we obtained a confession before she had been something might have been done, but now the matter had gone into the hands of the police such a reward, as they evidently were worth, pretty surely getting wind of it in time to escape.

"And so the whole upshot of the matter," said I to myself, "will be the ruin of the young woman and an article in tomorrow's paper, which, for the effect it will have, might as well be inserted under the head 'Personal' and read thus:

"If the gentlemen who have been in the habit of employing a young person in faced, mourning to disengage a few actions half eagles in this community do not find it convenient to remove their business for the present to some other place they will incur the danger of being involved in the unfortunate disaster which has befallen her."

"And this, Mr. Leguinus Quilman," concluded, "is the great service to the community which you and Mrs. Quilman have rendered."

Another clerk called in the afternoon to tell me that the prisoner's residence had been found, and searched, but that no further discoveries had been made. This, however, enabled me to find the unfortunate mother and provide some scanty comforts for her in her terrible affliction.

In doing this I felt that I was performing a duty. Society, I reasoned with myself, and it is needful for its own protection to take the guilty gangster and send her up in jail, but the gangster is the innocent mother's only support; ergo society must take that daughter's place. And as a feeble society in the abstract might be somewhat results in the performance of its duty, I ordered some tea and groceries and went home, feeling myself to be an embodiment of the whole social economy.

CHAPTER III.

The course of retributive justice as administered here on earth was more different than Rosalind has attributed to him, but "those with which I have to deal" are not of the poor and friendless. A few days only elapsed before I was summoned as a witness to attend the trial of Alice Summer. In the meantime both Mr. Bullock and myself made great but fruitless efforts to obtain a further insight into the true facts of the case.

The prisoner herself made no confession, but constantly asserted her innocence, to the great discomfiture of the broker and the utterable perplexity of myself. I sought in vain for a flaw in the chain of evidence against her or a chance to establish her innocence by other facts. Even the general testimony of good character—the frail trail, on which she seemed—seemed to bend beneath her. She and her mother had but lately come to the city, and to all inquiries as to their former home and friends we received only courteous and evasive answers. It was evident that some dark cloud of sorrow, if not of crime, hung over their past history, and this, while it did not diminish the interest I felt in her sadly weakened my confidence in her defense.

It was the day before the trial, and I sat in my office musing painfully on the dark features of the case, when a stranger entered. The first glance assured me that he was one of a class of clients with which most of our city lawyers are familiar. A seely, decrepit old man, humbly yet querulously, dejected and visionary, bearing a soupy, battered and worn collection of papers and pitifully urging his tale of woe and suffering, from which the patient listener gleams at the same time a belief that the sad tale is true and a melancholy conviction that misery has so cunningly hidden or time so long obliterated the evidences of the wrong that no court save that of the Omnipotent can ever set it right.

I turned from the man more perplexed than I should have been, for the subject that he expressed, by "longing," the poor old man's spirits were too much broken to take offense at my rudeness. Resolutely as I felt:

"I did not mean to give you trouble for nothing, sir. I have not time to offer you now, but I will pay you liberally when you gain my case. You have—have you seen—do you remember—let me see—I cannot remember less than twenty thousand dollars—fifty or thirty, or even forty—and you shall have a charter of it all. Think of that, sir. Ten thousand dollars for one case!"

And my client stared almost back in his chair, feeling that the thousands he had just offered, that his troubles were laid over and his passion in part of which his life had been wasted at least within his grasp. But I had had many such clients before, and when

I was very young at the bar had been called more than once in the same way.

"How much can you afford me as a retainer?"

"Now?" He seemed to be engaged in an abstract calculation as if over the resources of a nation. "Ten thousand dollars when the case is decided, say six months or a year hence. Suppose we say five dollars, sir, on account."

There was something so painfully eager in the look that accompanied these words that I suppressed the smile which had been prompted by the patios in his offer and signified my acceptance. My client drew from his pocket a large purse, and from the purse a solitary coin. Poor dreamer, he was paying his all for this one more ticket in the lottery!

I had opened my eyes to bid him leave his papers and take back the coin when my eye fell on it. One scrutinizing glance, and I jumped from my seat as if electrified by the little piece of gold.

"Where did you get this money, sir?" A transient gleam of former life shone in the old man's eye.

"I do not see, sir, what that has to do with my case."

"By heavens!" I shouted, collaring the old man and fairly lifting him out of his seat, "if you do not tell me this I swear!"

Just at this moment my office door opened, to admit my earnest and eloquent friend, Flourish. That that eminent counsel, brought of the scene I do not care to guess. The persona appearance of my client was not suggestive of any temptation to a felonious assault, nor did his manner indicate any provocation which could have called for chastisement; and these two suppositions being impossible, Mr. Flourish stared with undisguised amazement at my unprofessional conduct. His presence brought me to myself, and with many apologies I explained that this coin, which, as my hearers would notice, was peculiarly marked, had formerly been in my possession, and that I was anxious, for particular reasons, to trace its subsequent history.

The old man hesitated and stammered and cast so many side glances at the door that I began to think we had fallen upon one of the chief conspirators. Here Mr. Flourish came to my assistance with his blindest smile and most melodious tone, and in five minutes had drawn from my client all that he knew about it. Assuring myself that he would attend and testify to the same facts on the following day I dismissed him, and then rapidly recounted to Flourish the facts of the case. The latter, old lawyer, listened complacently, and when I had finished dryly expressed an opinion that the young woman should be acquitted.

"By heavens!" I shouted, collaring the old man.

I had conceived a hope while telling the story of interesting Mr. Flourish sufficiently in the case to induce him to undertake the management of the defense. For that cause I felt myself disqualified by other causes beside my want of experience in criminal law. I was liable to be called as a witness for the prosecution and was a most important one for the defense, and above all I felt that my own personal sympathies were too strongly excited for the prisoner to manage the affair with requisite coolness and skill. Flourish, however, who saw in the case nothing but a very commonplace incident of criminal practice, was not easily to be persuaded. The sensibilities of an elderly lawyer in large practice were very far down and are covered by a thick rind of worldly wisdom.

"Consider, my dear sir," said he, "how many cases of this kind are occurring every day, and how precious my time is to me. Upon my word, my clients would be in a pretty mess if I spent my time on petty affairs like this."

"Perry affair to you, Mr. Flourish," I now, not to that young girl, the fate of whose whole life here, and perhaps hereafter, hangs on that trial. One hour of such assistance as yours may save her."

"Ready, Quilman!"

"I shall see as I could offer out of my own pocket, would you?"

"I would tempt me, sir, if you offered it. I would tempt me to risk you out of your own office, and then go home, feeling that I had broken friendship with the softest hearted, simplest headed, fool at the bar. Why, man, you would turn the whole fraternity into a gang of angels errand, roaming up and down Wall street seeking to set this crooked world straight again."

"And so they ought to be, Mr. Flourish."

was she by the sight of the crowd and the keen sense of her forlorn condition. Save her poor mother, who had risen from a sick bed to accompany her, she did not know that she had a friend there. Even I, though I knew I meant her kindly, had been the unwilling means of placing her there.

I looked eagerly around the courtroom. On a front bench sat Mr. Foreceps, the pawnbroker, chief witness for the prosecution, and some distance behind was my old client, true to his promise, and pleased to have at last a part to take in court. It seemed to him like a little rehearsal for the great drama of his own case.

The district attorney opened the case, and was about to call me as the first witness. Mr. Flourish had not yet made his appearance. Greatly to my relief the pawnbroker came forward and whispered into the attorney's ear, who immediately called him to the stand.

"Believe me, Mr. Foreceps, the preference," he said to me.

"I think you had better, Brother Rowland," answered Flourish over my shoulder, at the same time divesting himself of his overcoat and distributing room, humored, though somewhat patronizing recognition among the smaller fry of lawyers around him.

Mr. Foreceps resisted the attempt made, to pass the counterfeit coin on him, as previously detailed. His direct examination was soon over, and he turned to Mr. Flourish with a smile of confidence; which to me seemed not altogether natural. It seemed as if he were bracing himself up for a contest of nerve with the counsel for the defense.

But Mr. Foreceps' bluster for a grand display of ineffectual tactics he was destined to be mistaken. Mr. Flourish simply turned for a moment toward him remarking:

"I only want to know if I have understood you aright, Mr. Foreceps. I think you said this was your only transaction with the prisoner—mean the only occasion on which you received money from her?"

"I never received any money at all from her unless you call that thing money," pointing to the coin. "Perhaps you call that money, but I don't sir." And Mr. Foreceps smiled approvingly at his own retort.

"How long did it understand that you had this coin in your possession?" I anxiously rejoined the counsel.

"No time at all. I know it was bad the minute it reached the drawer and took it out and returned it."

"You took it out and returned it?" replied Flourish, as if he meant to repeat the words. "At what time, sir?" Mr. Bullock then testified to the character of the coin and to the prisoner's admission in my office that it was the same one she had offered to the pawnbroker. The prosecution rested.

Without any formal opening of the defense Mr. Flourish noticed to me and took the stand. The district attorney threw himself back in his chair and listened carelessly while I detail of the particulars of my interview with Alice on the evening Saturday night. But when I mentioned the little mark on the coin I had given her in practiced mind, Foreceps at once opened his defense. It was confessed the first intimation he had received that any substantial defense would be attempted, and in his surprise he started to his feet and directed a searching glance first at me and then in rapid succession at the prisoner, her counsel, and his own witnesses.

"Have you ever seen that marked coin since, Mr. Quilman?"

"I have."

"When and where?"

"It is here," said I, producing it. "I received it about a ten days ago from a client, Mr. Richard Grosvenor."

Having satisfied myself that I was positive as to the identity of the coin the district attorney asked me to stand aside, and Mr. Flourish called Grosvenor, who of course confirmed my statement as to the receipt of the coin from him at the time of its reappearance.

"Will you state, Mr. Grosvenor, if you can, how that coin came into your hands?"

"I received it," said the old man—a slight color coming into his bloodless face—"on the evening of Saturday, the 21st of December, from Mr. Foreceps, the pawnbroker."

"How can you be so positive as to the precise date, Mr. Grosvenor, and the identity of the coin?" asked the district attorney.

"The date, sir, I fix by this," producing one of Mr. Foreceps' tickets, "and the coin—my dear sir, it is the only gold piece I have had for many a long day. I have spent my money in the law, sir; but I am going to get it all back soon. You must know I have a case, sir."

From the details of Mr. Grosvenor's case were saved by the district attorney, his name and he had caught a glimpse of his chief witness gliding softly through the crowd toward the door. "Mr. Foreceps, Mr. Foreceps, Officer, close that door and let no man pass," he thundered. "Bring that witness back here!"

Fushed with excitement, his form drawn up to its utmost height, and his glorious eyes flashing with indignation at the foul wrong which had been attempted and almost effected in the sacred name of justice, no stool, surrounded by an astonished group, the only one that seemed to retain any self-possession. Even we who had been in the secret and planned the surprise, were less masters of the scene. He looked indeed at that he was—the faithful minister of retributive justice, magnifying his office by a love of right, before which all petty amations sank into nothingness.

Scarcely need be added that the jury acquitted Alice without leaving their box, and the pawnbroker, charged with uttering counterfeit coin and with perjury, spent that night in the cell and left. Perhaps some time I may tell of what afterward happened to her as well as to my old client and his interminable case. But now there is sadness on my heart as I think of that scene in court, and I am garrulous no longer.

THE END.

1891

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

1
